

# Safe Energy Leadership Alliance

September 30, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We are members of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance – a coalition of more than one hundred local, state, and tribal leaders from across the Pacific Northwest, Montana, Idaho, and Canada – seeking a full assessment and disclosure of the economic, cultural, environmental, health, and safety risks posed by coal and oil trains.

We respectfully request an immediate emergency order establishing a clear, near-term timeline for prohibiting the shipment of Bakken Oil and other highly flammable and explosive crude oil in older, unsafe rail cars known as DOT-111 tank cars.

While we represent communities large and small, urban and rural, across a vast geographic area, we share a common mandate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our residents. Recent oil train derailments, spills, and fires have resulted in evacuations, devastating pollution, and loss of life across the United States and Canada. We are deeply concerned about the growing oil train traffic through the heart of our communities.

Because of historic development patterns, rail lines carrying this highly flammable product often traverse densely populated areas, commercial and industrial districts. They pass through or near many of our popular parks and recreation areas, next to our rivers and lakes, and along hundreds of miles of Puget Sound shoreline. A derailment, explosion, or spill in any of these areas would be devastating.

We understand and appreciate your efforts to address this important safety issue through promulgation of new regulations. But we feel strongly the time required to bring these rules into effect is not commensurate with the documented imminent and growing threat that these aging oil tank cars pose to the safety and livelihood of the people and communities we are pledged to protect.

Therefore we, the undersigned members of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance, respectfully urge you to use your authority to immediately issue an emergency order with date certain (no more than one year from now) for halting use of legacy DOT-111 tank cars in the transport of highly flammable crude oil and establishing financial penalties for violating this order.

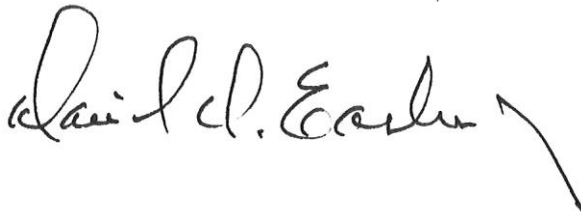
Sincerely,



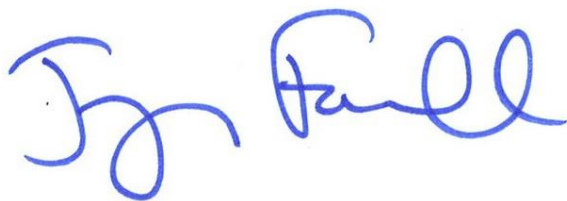
Dow Constantine  
King County Executive



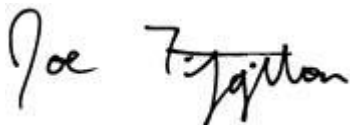
David Baker  
Mayor, City of Kenmore, WA



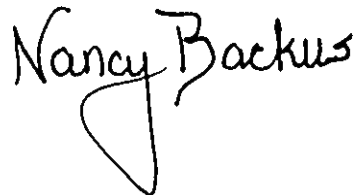
Dave Earling  
Mayor, City of Edmonds, WA



Jessyn Farrell  
Washington State Representative (46<sup>th</sup> District)



Joe Fitzgibbon  
Washington State Representative (34<sup>th</sup> District)



Nancy Backus  
Mayor, City of Auburn, WA



Anne Blair  
Mayor, City of Bainbridge Island, WA



Chris Eggen  
Deputy Mayor, City of Shoreline, WA



Jeremy Ferguson  
Mayor, City of Milwaukie, OR



Mark Gamba  
Councilmember, City of Milwaukee, OR



Jennifer Gregerson  
Mayor, City of Mukilteo, WA



Will Hall  
Councilmember, City of Shoreline, WA



Katherine Haque-Hausrath  
Commissioner, City of Helena, MT

Stacia Jenkins  
Councilmember, City of Normandy Park, WA



Ruth Kagi  
Washington State Representative (32<sup>nd</sup> District)



Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
Washington State Senator (36<sup>th</sup> District)



Michael Lilliquist  
Councilmember, City of Bellingham, WA



Liz Lovelett  
Councilmember, City of Anacortes, WA



Margie MacDonald  
Montana State Representative (54<sup>th</sup> District)



Sue Malek  
Montana State Senator (46<sup>th</sup> District)



John McCoy  
Washington State Senator (38<sup>th</sup> District)



John Nehring  
Mayor, City of Marysville, WA



Mike O'Brien  
Councilmember, City of Seattle



Tina Orwall  
Washington State Representative (33<sup>rd</sup> District)



Jamie Pederson  
Washington State Senator (43<sup>rd</sup> District)



Larry Phillips  
King County Councilmember (District 4)



Wayne Roth  
Deputy Mayor, City of Bainbridge Island, WA



Cindy Ryu  
Washington State Representative (32<sup>nd</sup> District)



John Snyder  
Councilmember, City of Spokane, WA



Ben Stuckert  
Council President, City of Spokane, WA



Ryan Walters  
Councilmember, City of Anacortes, WA



Shannon Williamson  
Councilmember, City of Sandpoint, ID